

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for a search framework to provide search functionality to a web server across at least two search providers, the search framework being interposed between the web server and each of the search providers, said method comprising in the search framework:

- registering a first search method adapted to perform ~~for performing~~ searches on a first of said at least two search providers;
- registering a second search method adapted to perform ~~for performing~~ searches on a second of said at least two search providers;
- registering a first response format for receiving search results from said first search provider;
- registering a second response format for receiving search results from said second search provider;
- detecting a request to the web server for a search on a selected search provider from among said first search provider and said second search provider, said selected search provider corresponding to a corresponding search method from among said first search method and said second search method;
- providing to the web server a ubiquitous search method for performing said search utilizing said corresponding search method, the ubiquitous search method being generic with regard to any of the first and second search providers and the corresponding search methods thereof; and
- responding to a call from the web server to said ubiquitous search method by performing said search on the selected search provider utilizing said corresponding search method, receiving a search result from the selected search provider in a response format corresponding to said selected search provider, and providing said received search result to the web server in a ubiquitous format, the ubiquitous format being generic with regard to any of the first and second search providers and the corresponding formats thereof.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, where said method comprises:  
reading search provider data regarding said first search provider and  
said second search provider from a configuration file.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, where said method is  
implemented in conjunction with a web server, and where said configuration file is a  
web.config file.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for a search framework to provide  
search functionality to a web server across at least two search providers, the search  
framework being interposed between the web server and each of the search providers, said  
method comprising in the search framework:

registering a first search method adapted to perform ~~for performing~~  
searches on a first of said at least two search providers;

registering a second search method adapted to perform ~~for performing~~  
searches on a second of said at least two search providers;

registering a first response format for receiving search results from said  
first search provider;

registering a second response format for receiving search results from  
said second search provider;

detecting a request to the web server for a search on said first search  
provider and said second search provider;

providing to the web server a ubiquitous search method for performing  
said search utilizing said first search method and said second search method, the ubiquitous  
search method being generic with regard to any of the first and second search providers and  
the corresponding search methods thereof; and

responding to a call from the web server to said ubiquitous search  
method by performing said search on the first search provider utilizing said first search  
method and on the second search provider utilizing said second search method, receiving a

first search result from the first search provider in said first response format from of said first search provider, receiving a second search result from the second search provider in said second response format of said second search provider, and providing said first and said second search results to the web server in a ubiquitous format, the ubiquitous format being generic with regard to any of the first and second search providers and the corresponding formats thereof.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, where said step of providing said first and said second search results comprises:  
returning said first and said second search results in a unified format.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, where said step of detecting a request for a search on said first search provider and said second search provider comprises receiving response format data, and where said step of providing said first and said second search results comprises:

returning said first and said second search results according to said response format data.

9-11 (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A computer hardware system including a web server and a search framework to provide search functionality to the web server across at least two search providers, the search framework being interposed between the web server and each of the search providers, said system comprising as the search framework:

registration module for registering a first search method adapted to perform ~~for performing~~ searches on a first of said at least two search providers and for registering a second search method adapted to perform ~~for performing~~ searches on a second of said at least two search providers, and also for registering a first response format for

receiving search results from said first search provider and registering a second response format for receiving search results from said second search provider;

search request detection module for detecting a request to the web server for a search on a selected search provider from among on said first search provider and said second search provider, said selected search provider corresponding to a corresponding search method from among said first search method and said second search method;

ubiquitous search method provision module for providing to the web server a ubiquitous search method for performing said search utilizing said corresponding method, the ubiquitous search method being generic with regard to any of the first and second search providers and the corresponding search methods thereof; and

ubiquitous search method response module for responding to a call from the web server to said ubiquitous search method by performing said search on the selected search provider utilizing said corresponding search method, receiving a search result from the selected search provider in a response format corresponding to said selected search provider, and providing said received search result to the web server in a ubiquitous format, the ubiquitous format being generic with regard to any of the first and second search providers and the corresponding formats thereof.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer hardware system including a web server and a search framework to provide search functionality to the web server across at least two search providers, the search framework being interposed between the web server and each of the search providers, said system comprising as the framework:

registration module for registering a first search method adapted to perform ~~for performing~~ searches on a first of said at least two search providers and for registering a second search method adapted to perform ~~for performing~~ searches on a second of said at least two search providers, and also for registering a first response format for receiving search results from said first search provider and registering a second response format for receiving search results from said second search provider, the first response format defining an interface for receiving a number of items returned in a response to executing the first search method and an estimated number of total results returned in a response to executing the first search method, the second response format defining an interface for

receiving a number of items returned in a response to executing the second search method and an estimated number of total results returned in a response to executing the second search method;

search request detection module for detecting a request to the web server for a search on said first search provider and said second search provider;

ubiquitous search method provision module for providing to the web server a ubiquitous search method performing said search utilizing said first search method and said second search method, the ubiquitous search method being generic with regard to any of the first and second search providers and the corresponding search methods thereof; and

ubiquitous search method response module for responding to a call from the web server to said ubiquitous search method by performing said search on the first search provider utilizing said first search method and on the second search provider utilizing said second search method, receiving a first search result from the first search provider in said first response format from of said first search provider, receiving a second search result from the second search provider in said second response format of said second search provider, and providing said first and said second search results to the web server in a ubiquitous format, the ubiquitous format being generic with regard to any of the first and second search providers and the corresponding formats thereof.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, where said first and said second search results are provided in a unified format.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, where said search request detection module receives response format data, and where said first and said second search results are provided according to said response format data.

17. (Canceled)